

eyes
and
ears of

"FAMILY EDITION"
Walt Disney World.®

VOL. 7 NO. 48A

PREPARED BY AND FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF WALT DISNEY WORLD

DECEMBER, 1977



DECEMBER HERALDS CAST PARTY AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS



Well, Thanksgiving is over and thoughts have all ready turned to the next holidays at hand. It's December, the time of year to begin gearing up for Christmas, your Cast Party, the annual Cast Christmas Dance, the Candle light Processional ceremonies, extended Magic Kingdom operating hours, the Very Merry Christmas Parade, Fantasy in the Sky Fireworks, our annual Castle Forecourt show, The Glory and Pageantry of Christmas show at the Village, and lots more.

It's Christmas time at Walt Disney World, the most beautiful season of the year!
Let's find out what's in store for us all across our property this month . . .

December Heralds Cast Party And Other Special Events

Cont'd from cover

CAST PARTY JUST FOR YOU

Our annual Cast Party in the Magic Kingdom falls on separate weekends this year. It will be **Saturday evening, December 3, and Friday evening, December 9.** On both evenings, the Magic Kingdom will be dressed out for the season with thousands of twinkling colored lights, brightly decorated wreaths and garlands everywhere, and festive holiday music abounding.

On both nights, the front gates will be closed to guests at 7 pm and reopen to cast members and their immediate families only at **8 pm . . .** and will stay open for you until midnight in our biggest Cast Party ever!

Whichever evening you attend, you'll find most of the Magic Kingdom attractions open with no tickets required, many of the food locations will be open . . . offering special reduced prices to you and your family . . . and many of the merchandise shops will be open offering their wares with your employee discount available!

In addition, you will find special entertainment on hand for the evenings, including the lighting of the **Christmas Tree** in Town Square and the **Cast**



Choir's preview of the Candlelight Processional's musical arrangements at 8:30 pm, the Kids of the Kingdom performing in the Castle Forecourt at 9 pm and 11 pm, and an excerpt from 'A Very Merry Christmas Parade' at 10 pm.

But perhaps the biggest entertainment event of the year, is when you spot your supervisor scooping ice cream at Borden's, your manager sweeping up Main Street, or your Vice President welcoming you to Haunted Mansion . . . because the Magic Kingdom attractions and food locations will be operated both evenings by our Walt Disney World management team!

Now comes the question . . . how do I go about attending one of these parties? Here is the procedure:



- Tickets will be available through your **divisional office** where you pick up your paycheck, beginning November 23rd. They are **free** and you may pick up one for **yourself** and each of your dependents. You will be issued up to the number of people indicated on the back of your Main Gate Pass, plus yourself. You may attend either night, with ticket distribution strictly on a first come, first served basis.

- As much as we would like your neighbors and good friends to attend and enjoy the evening with you, we simply cannot accommodate them. Therefore, both Cast Parties are for cast members and their immediate family members **only**. (Single cast members may bring a date or their parents).

As you approach the Main Gate, you must show **both** your Disney ID and party ticket, and each family member must present a ticket. The only exception would be if you are working that evening, then give a member of your family your **Main Gate Pass** to present.

If you have any questions regarding the admission policy to our Cast Parties, please call Cast Activities at 824-4254.

- As in the past, this year we will again be sponsoring the "Toys for Tots" program. Although not required for admission, cast members wishing to participate should bring an **unwrapped** gift (if it's wrapped, we have to unwrap it!) and deposit it in the barrels located at the Magic Kingdom entrance. This program

is a great way to share the holiday spirit this happy season, and we wholeheartedly support it!

- Your Cast Party tickets include complimentary parking in the Main Guest Parking Lots. Please use **only** this area (there will be no entrance through our resorts) and travel to the Magic Kingdom via monorail or ferryboat.

Your host for the evening will be Santa Claus. We understand that he will be on a special stage in Town Square this year with the **Christmas Tree** in the background . . . perfect for pictures with the kids, or the parents! He will be in the Magic Kingdom both nights along with many other Disney characters, all wishing you the very merriest Cast Christmas Party!



CAST CHRISTMAS DANCE

December also means another employee function, our annual **Cast Christmas Dance**. And what a line up they have in store for you this year.

Taking center stage will be the **Don Taylor Quartet**, featuring **Don Taylor**, formerly associated with Gene Krupa and Billy May. Playing with Don will be **Don Lamond** (husband of Rosie O' Grady's Red Hot Mama), fresh from Doc Severinson's Tonight Show Band and **Woody Herman**.



The Don Taylor Quartet

Joining the quartet on stage will be **Steve Christie**, Nashville artist, who moves from rock to ballads, and Nashville artist **Delores Deal**. Performing with the quartet, you will find the evening's music will be just about anything you want it to be!



Steve Christie



Delores Deal

This year's Cast Christmas Dance will be held following the Candlelight Processional on **Sunday evening, December 18**, from 8 pm to midnight in the Contemporary Resort's Ballroom of the Americas.

In addition to some great music, you will find beverages at reduced prices and a chance to win some fantastic door prizes, including:

- A weekend for two at Fort Wilderness, with two-nights stay in a new Fleetwood Trailer, dinner at Pioneer Hall, free access to River Country, and use of all recreational equipment there.
- A certificate good for \$50 of holiday spirits from the Village Spirits shop in Lake Buena Vista.
- Gift certificates for merchandise.
- Dinner for two at Top of the World in the Contemporary Resort.
- And giant Winnie the Pooh and Pluto plush toys!

Tickets will be available beginning **Monday, December 5**, at Cast Activities and all resort Cash Control locations. If you purchase them in **advance**, they are:

Per Couple

\$5

They will also be available at the door the evening of the dance for:

Per Person

\$3

Per Couple	Per Person
\$6	\$3.50

We hope to see everyone there for our annual Cast Christmas Dance!

CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL FOLLOWS

Right on the heels of our Cast Parties, will be two evening performances of our popular **Candlelight Processional** . . . and you and all of our guests are invited to attend.

Officially heralding the opening of our Christmas season at Walt Disney World, they will step off at **7 pm** on Saturday and Sunday, **December 17 & 18**. More than 1,500 candle-carrying carolers will proceed down a darkened Main Street to Town Square, where they will join our Cast Choir at the base of their "Living Christmas Tree" for a half-hour of Christmas music presented with a full orchestra, followed by the story of the first Christmas. The evening will end with the awe-inspiring "Hallelujah Chorus"

EXTENDED HOURS THROUGH NEW YEARS

Beginning Monday, December 19, the Magic Kingdom will celebrate the fast approaching Holiday with extended operating hours through New Year's Day. See the special clip out section in this issue for details.



NEW PARADE AND FIREWORKS

Toy soldiers, ice skaters and dancing Christmas Trees will star in our new **Very Merry Christmas Parade**, premiering this season. Santa's Toy Shop, Mrs. Claus' Kitchen and Santa's "Over the Rooftop" sleigh are among the major floats led by Mickey and Minnie Mouse in Santa's Storybook.

Silly reindeer, rocking horses, gingerbread men and a rag doll chorus also star in the bigger-than-life format we have found so successful with "America On Parade" and the "Main Street Electrical Parade".



Also on tap is **Fantasy in the Sky** Fireworks nightly. The "big event" will be midnight, New Year's Eve, when the rockets will blast off from both in front of the Magic Kingdom and behind it . . . for a double treat of spectacular aerial fireworks.

See the clip & save box for times and dates.



At the Village, **The Glory and Pageantry of Christmas** will be presented twice nightly December 17 through Christmas Eve. Actors and actresses wearing authentic costumes recreate the manger scene with moving seasonal music. The presentation is made outdoors under the Captain's Tower.

Of course, there will be plenty more for you and your family in and around Walt Disney World this yule time season. We hope that you will be able to get out and enjoy them. **Happy Holidays!**

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS & TIMES

- Cast Christmas Party . . . Saturday, December 3, and Friday, December 9, from 8 pm to midnight in the Magic Kingdom. Employees and immediate family only.
- Candlelight Processional Ceremony . . . Saturday and Sunday, December 17 & 18, at 7 pm on Main Street and Town Square.
- Cast Christmas Dance . . . Sunday, December 18, Ballroom of the Americas, 8 pm to midnight.
- Magic Kingdom Extended Operating Hours . . . Theme Park hours will be: Dec. 17 & 18-9 am to 10 pm
Dec. 19 thru 23-9 am to midnight
Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)-9 am to 6 pm
Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)-8 am to midnight
Dec. 26 thru 30-8 am to midnight
Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve)-8 am to 2 am
Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)-9 am to 8 pm
Jan. 2 thru 7-9 am to 8 pm
- Very Merry Christmas Parade . . . Our new parade will perform twice daily at 2 pm and 9 pm December 17 thru 30, except December 24 & 31 and January 1 & 2 when there will only be a 2 pm performance.
- Fantasy in the Sky Fireworks . . . December 19 thru 30 (except December 24) at 10 pm nightly. There will be a double show at midnight on December 31, New Year's Eve.
- The Glory and Pageantry of Christmas . . . December 17 thru 24 at 7 pm and 8:30 pm under the Captain's Tower in the Village.
- There will be additional holiday entertainment throughout the Magic Kingdom. See upcoming weekly EYES & EARS for details.

Disney Family Album

While researching this month's Family Edition Scrapbook, which features events of prominence that occurred during the month of **December** in our company's history, we found December dates continually cropping up in the Disney family's past.

Zeroing in on significant dates in the family history, we found that every offspring of Elias and Flora Disney were born in December, except Roy, who passed away in December.



Flora and Elias Disney

Bob Thomas, in his biography *Walt Disney - An American Original*, aptly describes those early Disney family days, when Elias Disney (Walt's father) moved to Florida. Here is a glimpse at Walt Disney's roots:

"He bought a 40-acre farm at Kismet and continued his courtship of Flora Call, who had become a grammar-school teacher. They were married on New Year's Day, 1888, in her parent's home in Akron, Florida. Elias was 28, his bride was 19.

"They were a devoted couple, and she remained patient and understanding through his many misadventures in business.

"First, Elias sold his farm and bought a hotel in Daytona Beach. But the tourist trade slumped and he was forced out of business. Now he had a son (their first), Herbert, born December 8, 1888, and Elias went to work as a rural mailman and managed to buy a small orange grove. Then a war scare swept the country. Overwhelmed with patriotism, he enlisted in the militia. The crisis soon dissolved, and Elias saw no sense in



Ruth and Walt Disney, taken in 1913.



Captioned "Our Sailor Boy" in the Disney family album, this was Roy Disney in his youth.

remaining in the militia, not when he had a wife and baby son and an orange grove to care for. So he walked out of the army camp and went home. Military police arrived at his house to arrest him as a deserter. 'I didn't desert; there isn't any war,' he reasoned. The army men could find no answer to his logic. 'At least you must give back the uniform,' one insisted. 'No, sir, I didn't get paid, so I'm going to keep the uniform,' Elias replied.

"A frost destroyed the orange crop and Elias was stricken with malaria. He decided, as he often did when his luck turned sour, that his life would improve if he moved on. He chose Chicago.

"By 1889, when Elias and Flora Disney arrived with their infant son, Chicago was a brawny city of 1,200,000 citizens, the railroad hub sending wheat and beef to the East, and cloth and threshers to the West. They built a square, trim, neat little house at 1249 Tripp Avenue, one of the two paved roads in the northwestern part of Chicago.



Herbert Disney



Raymond Disney

"The family was growing. Raymond Arnold Disney was born on December 30, 1890, and Roy Oliver Disney on June 24, 1893. Elias and his wife and sons worshipped at St. Paul Congregation Church, and he became a close friend of the preacher, Walter Parr. Elias volunteered to build a new church for the congregation, and he put up a plain, serviceable structure with a tall, sloping roof. Flora played the organ in the new church, and Elias preached the sermon when the preacher was on vacation. When both their wives became pregnant in 1901, Elias made a proposal to the preacher: 'If I get a boy baby, I'll name him after you; if your baby is a boy, you name him after me.' Walter Parr agreed.

"A fourth son was born to Elias and Flora Disney in the upper bedroom of the Tripp Avenue house on Sunday, December 5, 1901. Keeping his bargain with the preacher, Elias named the boy Walter Elias Disney. The Parr baby was also a boy, and his name was Elias. It had been eight and a half years since her last son had been born, and Flora Disney lavished attention on young Walter. He was a sweet-natured baby handsomer than the other boys, who had their father's strong Roman nose.

"Two years and a day after Walter's arrival, the first (and only) daughter was born to the Disneys, and she was named Ruth Flora Disney."

The Disney family is survived today by Raymond, 87 years old, and Ruth, 74. **Dave Smith** at our Archives told us that Ray lives in Burbank and Ruth in Portland, Oregon. Both are retired.

Yes, December is a significant month in the Disney family's past:

Herbert Disney

December 8, 1888 - January 29, 1961

Raymond Arnold Disney

December 30, 1890 - Present

Roy Oliver Disney

June 24, 1893 - December 20, 1971

Walter Elias Disney

December 5, 1901 - December 15, 1966

Ruth Flora Disney

December 6, 1903 - Present

GIFT IDEAS AT A SAVINGS!



Cast Activities is now offering special prices on a few remaining Disney books:

# Available	Reg. Price	Cast price
9	\$9.95	\$5 ea
10	\$19.95	\$12.50 ea
25	\$9.95	\$5.75 ea

Magic Moments
Disneyana
Walt Disney: An American Original

Cast Activities also has 200 *Art of Walt Disney* paperback books on hand for the low price of \$1.75 each.

You may now place an order in Cast Activities for the **Guardian FB-1** and **R-1X Smoke Detectors**. The FB-1 is battery powered, the R-1X plugs into your wall. Both detectors retail for \$49.95, but through Cast Activities you may take advantage of the special employee price of \$25.00! These smoke detectors are a must for mobile homes, apartments and homes.



SPORTS

SNOW SKIING TRIPS SET

With the month of December upon us, that means only one thing . . . winter is really here! And with winter comes the Snow Skiing Club's annual jaunts to snow country!

This year, the club is planning two trips to the North Carolina mountains. If you would like to go, then mark your calendar for these dates . . . First up is **Beech Mountain**. Always a highly popular resort with our cast members, the club will be there the weekend of **January 7 & 8**. And as in the past, reservations have been made at the Village Inn for the skiers. On the heels of that trip will be another, this time to both **Beech Mountain** and nearby **Sugar Mountain**. One day at each with the evening at the Village Inn again the weekend of **February 11 & 12**.



The approximate cost of either trip is \$85 per person, which includes round-trip transportation, accommodations, rental ski equipment for both days, and two lift passes. In fact, that's just about everything you'll need except food!

For veteran Beech Mountain skiers, we found that over the summer they cut two new upper intermediate slopes and added a new **high-speed** chair lift to the top . . . that means this winter will be more skiing on less crowded slopes with less waiting in line! A combination you can't beat.

Watch the weekly **EYES & EARS** for details on the upcoming trips . . . and Think Snow!

BASKETBALL TAKING A BREAK

Our league basketball teams will be taking a break for the holidays during the weeks beginning December 19th and December 26th. Regular season play will resume beginning the week of January 9, 1978.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS FORMING

All team managers and individuals interested in joining a team in our winter

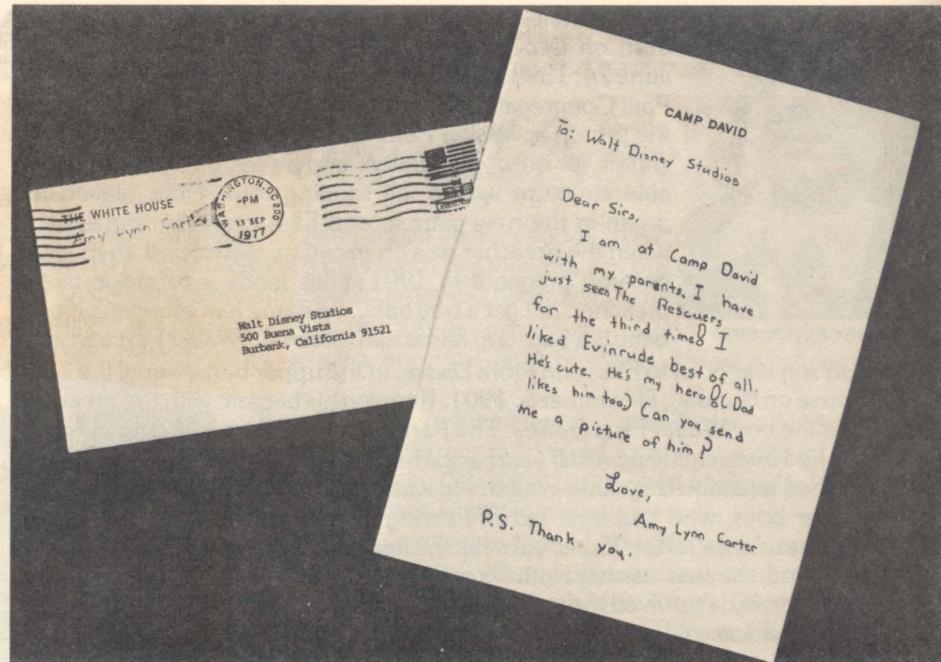


Women's Basketball Leagues should contact Cast Activities right away for information on rosters, dates, etc. The season is scheduled to begin the second week of January, 1978 playing Thursday evenings at the Pine Hills Boy's Club gym.

Efforts are underway now to form an eight-team league to play a seven-game schedule with a championship tournament at the end of the season. Call Cast Activities now at 824-4254 to insure yourself a spot on a team!

LLB CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Little Lake Bryan will be closed on Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1. The Lake will be open on the Saturdays preceding the holidays. Regular weekend schedules will resume beginning Saturday, January 7, 1978.



WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS' **PETE'S DRAGON**

IS ON HIS WAY!



Arriving At
Walt Disney World®
In December

Watch The Weekly
"EYES & EARS"
For Details!

DECEMBER SCRAPBOOK



December 21, 1937 - On this date, the world's first full-length animated motion picture premiered. Later, Walt Disney could never recall why he chose *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* as his first feature-length film. However, three years earlier, *Snow White* was only an idea in Walt's head. **Bob Thomas** describes the scene . . . "Disney animators first learned of the project one evening when several of them returned from dinner at a cafe (across from the Studio). They found Walt waiting for them, and he said, 'C'mon in the sound stage; I've got something to tell you.' They followed him onto the bare stage, lighted by a single naked bulb, and they took chairs in a semicircle before him. He began to tell them the story of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* as it might be animated on the screen. He acted out each part, his eyebrows ascending as he mixed dread potions as the evil Queen, his face beaming when he depicted the merry Dwarfs. The performance took two hours, and at the end, when the Prince's kiss awakened the sleeping Snow White, there were tears in the eyes of his listeners. 'That's going to be our first feature,' Walt announced." Three years and over one-and-a-half million dollars later, *Snow White* premiered at the Carthay Circle Theater in Los Angeles. The great names of Hollywood and the leaders of the film industry stood and cheered when the movie ended. Walt received a special Academy Award for the film.



December 7, 1941 - On this afternoon, mere hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Walt Disney answered the telephone at home. The Studio manager told him, "Walt, the studio police just phoned me; the Army is moving in on us." Walt asked what he meant. "The Army . . . 500 soldiers," said the manager. "They told me they're moving in." And move in they did. The soldiers commandeered the Disney sound stage, ordered the film equipment removed, and installed gear for repairing trucks and anti-aircraft guns. An officer remarked that the stage was ideal because it could be used during a blackout. Next, the Army claimed the employee parking sheds and used them for storing three million rounds of ammunition. Military Police were posted at each gate, and all Disney workers, including Walt and Roy, were fingerprinted and given ID badges to wear at all times. Artists doubled up in rooms in the Animation Building so the soldiers would have places to sleep. After eight months, when fears of a Japanese attack on the mainland were over, most of the Army moved out. By then, Walt had converted the entire Disney staff to producing war effort films.



December 1952 - By 1952, Walt Disney had made up his mind to build a "theme park" he was to later call Disneyland. As his concepts grew, he realized a need for an organization to help him create it. In December, he founded Walt Disney, Inc., with himself as president. Roy feared that company stockholders might object to the use of the Disney name, so the title became WED Enterprises . . . the initials of Walt's name. Located in Glendale, California, WED was a personal corporation for Walt's activities outside the Studio. Today, they master plan and design all Disney outdoor entertainment.



December 15, 1954 - To help finance his theme park, Walt aired his first television show in 1954 . . . *Disneyland* . . . today known as *The Wonderful World of Disney*. And the first hit of the season was *Davy Crockett*. Walt had been contemplating a series of television shows on legendary American heroes like Johnny Appleseed, Daniel Boone, Mike Fink, Davy Crockett and others. His first would be on *Davy Crockett*, a saga which took Crockett from the frontier to Congress and finally to the Alamo. A huge actor named **James Arness** was recommended to play Crockett, and Walt ran to see a science-fiction film named *Them* in which Arness was starring. "That's Davy Crockett," Walt exclaimed, pointing not to Arness, but to another giant in the film, **Fess Parker**. He was hired, taught to ride a horse, and sent off to film *Davy Crockett* in North Carolina. A side note . . . *Davy Crockett* was designed to occupy three hour-long shows on *Disneyland*. But when assembled, the show was a bit short. Walt visited the office of **George Bruns**, a new composer at the Studio, and said, "George, can you get a little throwaway melody under the narration somehow?" In half-an-hour, he completed a tune titled "The Ballad of Davy Crockett". After release, the song was number one on the *Hit Parade* for 13 weeks, and sold over 10 million copies! Fess Parker became a star, and **Buddy Ebsen**, his sidekick, gained a new career.

December 23, 1954 - On this date, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* was released. The production was expensive for the Studio. It required construction of a new sound stage with a huge tank for underwater filming; important stars for the four leading roles; locations in the Caribbean, where water was clear enough for filming; costly special effects photography with storms and a monstrous squid; expensive sets, including the submarine *Nautilus* itself. During filming, Walt became very dissatisfied with the scene of the giant squid attacking the *Nautilus*. Walt told the director, "I want you to start on the dramatic scenes and postpone the squid fight until later. This stuff is awful." He agreed: "It's phony as a three-dollar bill; the wires are showing, and there's no illusion at all." Walt put his technicians to work, under the direction of **Bob Matte**, on a more maneuverable and convincing squid. They produced a two-ton beast with eight 40-foot tentacles and two 50-foot feelers. Twenty-eight men were required to animate the squid with hydraulics, compressed air and electronics. With hideous yellow eyes and a snapping beak, it presented a fearsome menace for Capt. Nemo and his crew. The battle required eight days to film and cost more than \$250,000, but was a worthwhile investment; the squid fight proved to be the visual highlight of the film! An interesting side note . . . Bob Matte was soon recognized as an expert in the field of mechanical underwater special effects, as was seen recently with his creation of the three mechanical sharks used in the top grossing motion picture *Jaws*. Today, armed with an even better shark, they are filming *Jaws II* near Panama City, Florida.



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DECEMBER '7

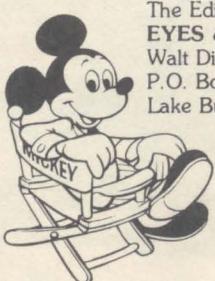
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Cast Christmas Party, 8 pm - midnight Sun 'n Fun Fest at LLB
4	5 Mixed Doubles Table Tennis Tournament Basketball	6 Basketball	7 Basketball	8 Basketball	9 Cast Christmas Party 8 pm - midnight	10 World Series of Entertainment, 9 pm-1:30 am
11	12 Mixed Team Pinball Tournament Basketball	13 Basketball	14 Basketball	15 Basketball	16	17 Candlelight Processional, 7 pm Parades 2 & 9 pm
18 Cast Christmas Dance, Contemporary Resort, 8 pm - midnight Candlelight Processional, 7 pm	19 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	20 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	21 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	22 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	23 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	24 Park open 9 am to 6 pm Parade at 2 pm
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Park open till midnight	26 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	27 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	28 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	29 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	30 Park open till midnight Parades 2 & 9 pm	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Park open till 2 am Parade at 2 pm

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